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Montana University System Newsletter

STATE DOCUMENTS

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Commissioner of Higher Education

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With this issue we begin a series of short biographical profiles of the members of the new Board of Regents of Higher Education, beginning with Commissioner of Higher Education, Lawrence K. Pettit and Board Chairman, Ted James.

Dr. Pettit is a native Montanan, born in Lewistown in 1937. An undergraduate history major led to a BA with honors from U of M in 1959. An MA in Political Science from Washington U. in St. Louis followed in 1962. The doctor of philosophy degree was earned at the U of Wisconsin in 1965 with a major in political science and a minor in sociology.

Professionally, Pettit's experiences from 1959 include duties as legislative assistant to U.S. Senator James Murray in 1959-1960 and to U.S. Senator Lee Metcalf in 1962. Pettit taught at Pennsylvania State University from 1964 to 1967 as assistant and then associate professor of political science. From January 1968 to August 1969, he was on the administrative staff of the American Council on Education in Washington, D.C. September 1969 saw Pettit's return to Montana as chairman of the government section at MSU. On leave from MSU as of April 1972, Pettit was statewide campaign manager for Tom Judge, staff director for the Governor-Elect, Administrative Assistant to the Governor, and from July 1, 1973, Commissioner of Higher Education in Montana. Dr. Pettit has published three books and numerous scholarly articles. He has served on several national commissions and committees in higher education, and has been state president of the AAUP. Dr. Pettit is listed in American Men of Science (Social and Behavioral Science Edition), Who's Who in the East, and in the Dictionary of International Biography. He is married, has four children, and resides in Helena.

Former Lt. Governor Ted James fulfills a dual role as chairman of both the Board of Regents and the Commission on Post-Secondary Education. Like the Commissioner, Mr. James is a native Montanan, born in Sand Coulee in 1918. He graduated from University of Montana Law School in 1943 and is a practicing attorney in Great Falls in the firm of James, Crotty, Fopp, and Paul.

James has been active professionally and politically in both local and state capacities. In addition, he has been deeply involved with many civic and service organizations. Professionally, he is a member of the Cascade County, Montana, and American Bar Associations. Additionally, he is on the Board of Bar Examiners and is a past president of the Cascade County Bar Association. Politically, James has served as past chairman of Cascade County Republican Central Committee, has been Cascade County Attorney (two terms), a past member and chairman of Montana State Board of Pardons and Parole, a member of the Montana State Highway Commission, and has held several other positions. James' civic responsibility is evidenced by his membership in many service organizations. Past presidencies or directorships include; U of M Alumni Association (Cascade County), and Great Falls organizations; Jaycees, YMCA, Kiwanis, Chamber of Commerce, Community Chest, Quarterback Club, and Campfire Girls. In 1950, James was named as the Jaycees' "outstanding young man of the year" and in 1961, the National Secretarial Association named him "boss of the year." Mr. James is married, has 3 children, and resides in Great Falls.

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PROGRAMS

Inadequate funds have caused a cut-off in Montana student applications to medical schools belonging to WICHE. The reason for the cancellation is that the projected budget was based on 15 Montana participants. Due to record acceptances, 18 students have already been enrolled into the program thereby creating a current \$15,000 deficit. The "second round" of selections for medical school begins February 15th. Unless the situation can be remedied by then, it is unlikely that any more Montana students will be accepted into medical schools. -----

The University System is sponsoring a joint charter flight with the State Credit Union which will travel from Great Falls to Brussels and return for \$307. Departure is July 21 and return is August 15. A grand tour is also available for those interested for an added cost of \$708 which will travel through 8 countries. The itinerary includes: Brussels, Rhine River Cruise, Heidelberg, Salzburg, Vienna, Budapest, Lake Balaton, Zagrab, Opatija, Postojna, Trieste, Venice, Florence, Rome, Pisa, Nice, Geneva, Paris, and return to Brussels. Additional information is available at the System office or any of the System campuses. -----

For the second year, weekly lectures for the Biology and Society course at Eastern Montana College are open to the public. Zeroing in on current issues, the Winter quarter lecture series follows a theme of Montana and energy. Guest speakers pursue such topics as politics of energy, pros and cons of nuclear energy, ecological cost of energy to Montana, and modern living and energy consumption. ----- The EMC school of education has opened a learning resource center with video tapes, motion pictures, slides, books and other materials for four regularly scheduled courses. ----- Project director Wilson and coordinator Gloege are developing plans for the implementation of a cooperative education program on the EMC campus, funded by a \$21,000 planning grant from the U.S. Office of Education. The thrust of the proposed program is with assistance in career planning, opportunity to study both theory and practice, and on the job work experience combined with a college degree. -----

Montana Tech's fifth annual bridge design contest began solicitation of design structures. Engineering science professor Herndon announced plans and specs for this program which is

open to all college and high school students in Montana. Deadline for entrants is Feb. 20. Additional information is available from Professor Herndon. -----

Montana State University's School of Home Economics is among the first 12 schools to be accredited under new guidelines established by the American Home Economics Association, a considerable honor since there are 365 home economics schools in the U.S.----- MSU's School of Nursing was also recently reaccredited by the National League for Nursing for eight years -- the longest period for which the League will issue accreditation. ----- MSU has 20 separate research projects under way that relate to the energy crisis. They involve 25 scientists and are financed by contracts and grants totaling nearly \$462,500 from private industry and government. Interim coordinator Stroup is maintaining contact with public and private agencies in energy research and seeking funds for additional research. ----- MSU's horse-shoeing schools have a new facility, part of the University Livestock Center west of the main campus. The school is self-supporting, with revenue coming from enrollees in the 11 week professional courses. In the afternoons, the students shoe horses brought in by owners, who pay a small fee to cover cost of materials. -----

A three day Bicultural curriculum conference featuring guest speakers from Northern Montana College, the State Office of Public Instruction on Indian Education, and the Crow Agency Bilingual Education Program is scheduled for January 25-26 and February 6 at NMC. The conference is open to the public and interested students. An added highlight of the conference will be the presentation of native American tribal dances at the conclusion of the business meetings of the conference. -----

The University of Montana has submitted to the Legislature a request for a supplemental appropriation of \$252,685 to make up for the unplanned expenditure of that amount to comply with requirements of the Fair Labor Standards Act and the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Most of the money was used for back pay and salary adjustments for women faculty and staff members. ----- The new library at UM opened January 7. The task of moving books and furniture from the old building was completed during the Christmas break so that

library service would not be disrupted. The new \$3.5 million building was dedicated during the 1973 Homecoming activities last fall. ----- The UM archives, now stored in five University buildings, will be consolidated into one unit in the new library by the end of this year. A 7,100-foot section in the middle of the top floor of the building will be partitioned and finished on the inside for the archives. ----- Carroll O'Connor, actor and star of the television series "All in the Family," announced at the Order of the Grizzly banquet in San Francisco that he will serve as national chairman of a fund raising drive for a new Fine Arts Center at UM. An auction of personal items contributed by national personalities and selected Montana art following the banquet raised nearly \$7,000 which was contributed to the fine arts drive. -----

The energy crisis has resulted in severe curtailments of athletic travel for Western Montana College's wrestling and basketball teams. Athletic director Bill Straugh explained: "We deeply regret having to cancel many of our previous commitments; however, under the present situation, there was no alternative." ----- The WMC Booster Club will stage two AAU Junior Wrestling Tournaments next spring and expects 250 entrants March 16 and 800 on March 23. Proceeds go to the Boosters' academic scholarship program, which this year is providing 51 \$200 grants to outstanding freshmen at WMC. -----

PERSONNEL

Eastern Montana College's Benedict Surwill, Dean of the School of Education, will begin in March, a one year term as national chairman of the Associative Organization for Teacher Education. -----

Professors Fred Earl and Koehler Stout of Montana Tech have contributed to the 2 volume SME Mining and Engineering Handbook. In preparation for 6 years, the Handbook is a composite of the writings of more than 260 contributors from the U.S. and Canada. -----

Dr. Harvey A. Larson, director of the Montana State University School of Commerce, was elected president of the Northwest Universities Business Administration Conference, which includes schools and departments of business in major colleges and universities in the Northwest and the western Canadian provinces.

Dr. Barney Old Coyote, professor of American Indian Studies at MSU, was elected president of the newly established American Indian National Bank based in Washington D.C. Studies at MSU confirmed the feasibility of the bank, which will open branch offices on Indian reservations around the country. Only American Indians can own stock in the bank, initially capitalized at \$1 million. -----

The Montana Woodwind Quintet has been selected to perform May 19 in Spokane in the EXPO '74 Festival of Entertainment. The Quintet, a resident faculty ensemble at UM, is the second organization from the School of Fine Arts invited to participate in the EXPO '74 Festival. The Jazz Workshop, a student instrumental group, will perform October 19 and 20. ----- John Mount of the UM School of Fine Arts has been selected to compete in the Metropolitan Opera Northwest Regional Auditions in Seattle. The region comprises Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, and western Canada. The winner in the regional competition will receive an award of \$300 and a trip to New York for further auditioning at the Met Opera House in the spring. -----

Carl Paris, former Saga manager at Holy Cross Abbey in Canyon City, Colorado, is now directing the Saga Food Service at Western Montana College. Paris succeeds Bill Ridgway, who was promoted to a similar post at Whitworth College, Spokane, Washington. ----- WMC Professor Dennis Widen authored his piano debut November 29 before a capacity audience of Dillon area residents, who accorded enthusiastic ovations to his performance of three Chopin Mazurkas. Widen, a former Drake University piano instructor, joined Western's staff last fall.

STUDENTS

Twelve University System students and one Carroll College student are working as legislative and administrative interns this year. The 10 legislative interns are assigned to governmental departments. The legislative interns for this session include 1 from Carroll, 1 from MCMST, 2 from EMC, 3 from UM, and 3 from MSU. In addition, the 3 administrative interns are from MSU. -----

Montana State University senior Maurice Burke of Butte is one of 32 Americans picked this year to be Rhodes Scholars, which means two years of all-expense paid study at Oxford

University in England, beginning this fall. Burke, a mathematics and philosophy major, is the fifth MSU student to receive the prestigious scholarship. ----- The percentage of women students at MSU has increased steadily over the past decade or so. Women accounted for 30% of the student population in 1961, while this year 42% of MSU's students are women. ----- MSU football player Bill Kollar won the most valuable player honors in the North-South Senior Bowl game at Mobile, Alabama. Kollar will receive a 1974 automobile. He already has received \$1,500 cash for playing for the winning team. -----

Virgil Alme confirmed that Western Montana College's class of 1973 is alive and well AND WORKING. Of 218 elementary and secon-

dary education graduates in June, 142 are now employed as teachers and all but 10 of these are in Montana. Additionally, of the 76 non-teaching graduates, 28 are working, 5 are continuing in post-graduate studies, one is in the military, and 31 women have either entered or returned to a homemaking status. ----- Collegians' concern for their campus community was amply evidenced at WMC during autumn quarter. The Circle K Chapter at the Dillon college presented Mayor Ray Lynch with a check for \$600. This represented proceeds from the 1973 "Walk for Mankind." The money will be allocated in sums of \$200 each for Dillon City Parks programs, Halfway House alcoholic rehabilitation, and Parkview Acres Convalescent Home.

FOCUS ON STUDENT FINANCIAL AID

According to a survey of 306 AASCU members, the first of the 3 most pressing problems of state colleges and universities is lack of financial aid for students. Montana, well aware of the need in this area, currently has 4 bills before the legislature seeking to ease the cost to college and university students. HB 731 would cut in half the tuition for resident Vietnam vets. HB 958 would waive tuition for all Montana residents over the age of 55. HB 1039 would define and implement a state work-study act. SB 463 would waive tuition for war orphans or Vietnam POW dependents. Nationally, Pres. Nixon in his Jan. 24 message to Congress proposed full funding at \$1.3 billion for the Basic Education Opportunity Grant program for needy college students, which the President said would raise the average grant to \$805 from the present \$260 a year. In his Jan. 28 message, he asked Congress to vote an 8 per cent cost-of-living increase in GI bill educational benefits. Congress has already appropriated \$20 million in matching funds for a state-student incentive grant program. Administered by the state, it provides grants to needy students. These programs if implemented as proposed, will assist Montana University System students faced with increased costs. It will particularly help meet the fee and per credit hour tuition charge increase approved by the Regents on Jan. 21. The per year average increase of \$25 for residents and \$97.20 for non-residents, could be offset for many students through these programs. The outlook is certainly not rosy; however, it does appear as if several concrete steps are being implemented to alleviate the cost of post-secondary education.

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